The City of Wichita, under the committed leadership of the Mayor and City Council, City Manager and Public Works & Utilities Staff, are continuing the journey toward establishing a sustainable, resilient water utility. Significant progress has already been made using adaptive resource management to address water resources challenges. Now the focus is on addressing critical aging infrastructure issues. To this end, the City of Wichita is proposing to construct a new 120 MGD firm capacity water treatment facility that will provide high quality and reliable water service to the region for many generations to come. The information detailed below represents a number of the significant drivers and positive project impacts to be considered during the review of the attached Letter of Interest (LOI).

Regional/National Significance:

The City of Wichita is largest regional drinking water provider in the State of Kansas, providing drinking water to more than 500,000 people. The Wichita service area includes not only the citizens of the City of Wichita but numerous wholesale, commercial and industrial customers including major aviation manufacturers Spirit AeroSystems and Textron Aviation, McConnell Air Force Base, and multiple advanced medical facilities. The economy of Kansas is dependent on a strong and vibrant Wichita. A strong and vibrant Wichita is dependent on robust and reliable water utility.

Aging Infrastructure and Utility Risk:

The Northwest Water Treatment Facility (NWWTF) project will address the significant risk to the community associated with Wichita's aging water treatment infrastructure. Water treatment is accomplished at a single Main Water Treatment Plant in the heart of Wichita (i.e., currently there is no redundancy as this is the only water treatment plant currently serving the City of Wichita and surrounding communities). A significant portion of the water treatment plant is more than 75 years old. A recently completed condition assessment indicated a vast majority of the existing water treatment plant assets were rated as in either Poor or Very Poor condition. **The single water treatment plant and the overall poor condition of the MWTP constitute an unacceptable level of risk to the City of Wichita and the region.** KDHE has identified this situation as "critical".

Project Timing and Risk Mitigation:

WIFIA financing is critical to timely reduction of risk associated with age and condition of the existing water treatment infrastructure. **The project would be delayed a minimum of 7 years in the absence of WIFIA financing.** The attached LOI demonstrates the City's creditworthiness and readiness of the project to proceed with the contracting process for construction within 90 days after execution of the WIFIA agreement.

Asset Management and Utility Optimization:

The City is currently improving upon a comprehensive asset management program as part of its ongoing utility optimization program that will monitor asset condition and performance, provide for preventative maintenance activities, and evaluate when corrective maintenance, rehabilitation, or replacement of assets should occur. The **proactive asset management program will extend the expected life of project assets** providing increased value and return on investment to the City of Wichita and its water supply customers. The timing is right for a new NWWTF.

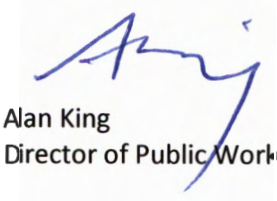
Adaptive Resource Management:

The NWWTF's ability to treat 100% groundwater, in addition to 100% surface water, will assist the City in times of drought. With the City using three primary water sources, one a surface water reservoir, one partially-treated surface water, and the other a ground water aquifer, drought resistance is tied in part to the ability to use any source solely or in combination. This flexibility is central to the adaptive resource management the City of Wichita practices. **The adaptive management practices focus on maintaining the viability of all sources during extended drought periods.** The adaptive resource management program utilized by the City of Wichita is also focused on maintaining water levels within the Equus Beds Aquifer at the highest levels possible. The Equus Beds Aquifer is part of the High Plains Aquifer, much of which is experiencing significant and persistent declines. Wichita's adaptive management strategy and Aquifer Storage and Recovery program have resulted in astonishing recoveries within the Equus Beds Wellfield. The restored groundwater levels within the wellfield are the best protection against the intrusion of salt water from both manmade (oil field brine) and natural (Arkansas River) sources thus protecting regional groundwater quality from nearly irreversible deterioration. Deterioration in the form of elevated chlorides would have a catastrophic effect on the agricultural economy of the region. The NWWTF project will help to ensure the continued success of these programs and resulting resource sustainability.

A safe and reliable water supply is known to be essential to the health and prosperity of any community. The combined impact of this project and the continuation of ongoing resource management practices will secure the future of the City of Wichita and the region for generations to come. As a prospective borrower, the City of Wichita appreciates the consideration of EPA in regard to the potential provision of WIFIA funding for this critical project.

If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Alan King at 316-268-4497.

Respectfully Submitted,



Alan King
Director of Public Works & Utilities